

150th Anniversary of First War of Independence

2140. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to observe the 150th Anniversary of the First War of Independence in 1857 against the imperialist British rule in India;

(b) if so, the salient details of the programmes proposed in this connection, basic concept to be propounded, if any, therein and the venues proposed for related functions;

(c) the funds estimated, if any, to be allotted to meet the total costs thereof; and

(d) the details of individuals, officials and organisations to be involved at the highest and at the middle level of its organisation indicating salient details of the tasks to be shouldered by each in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) The Government of India constituted a National Committee under the Chairmanship of Honourable Prime Minister to commemorate the following events:—

- (1) 150th Anniversary of the First War of Independence, 1857;
- (2) 60th Anniversary of Indian Independence;
- (3) Centenary Celebration of Adoption of Vande Mataram as National Song;
- (4) 75th Anniversary of the Martyrdom of Shaheed Bhagat Singh; and
- (5) Birth Centenary of Shaheed Bhagat Singh.

A National Implementation Committee has also been constituted under the Chairmanship of Union Human Resource Development Minister to chalk out the programmes and activities to be undertaken. The proposed Budget for the commemorative activities is Rs. 150.00 Crores. Various organizations at the local, state and national level would be involved in the commemoration as per decision of the National Implementation Committee.